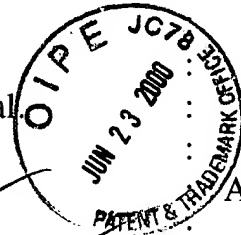


IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

George Hradil et al

Serial No.: 09/216,859



Art Unit: 1741

Filed: December 21, 1998

Examiner: D. Valentine

For: SPOUTED BED FLUID
CONTACTING APPARATUS
(As amended)

Atty Docket: 1924/00003

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RESPONSE AND AMENDMENT UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated March 23, 2000, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE TITLE:

NE Please amend the title by changing "ELECTROPLATING" to --FLUID CONTACTING--.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claim 2, amend the remaining original claims, and add new claims 31 and 32 as follows:

1. (Amended) An apparatus for contacting a plurality of objects with a fluid, said apparatus comprising:

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